

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Michael B.G. Froman
United States Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We remain deeply concerned with the antidumping duties South Africa has imposed upon American-raised poultry for the last 15 years. These actions have effectively blocked American poultry exports to the South African market, and strained our bilateral economic relationship.

The Senate Finance Committee included language in the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act that enables the Administration to conduct out-of-cycle reviews of any beneficiary country. Based on concerns we have raised, Sen. Isakson successfully amended the reauthorization so that it now requires the Administration to conduct an out-of-cycle review of South Africa's status as a beneficiary within thirty days of the bill's enactment. Furthermore, the reauthorization gives the Administration the authority to suspend, limit, withdraw, or terminate benefits based on the results of an out-of-cycle review.

This provision gives the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative the authority to conduct a review of South Africa's compliance with AGOA's eligibility criteria, including "the elimination of barriers to United States trade and investment." We write today to ask whether your agency will utilize this new authority to undertake a review of South Africa's antidumping duties immediately upon enactment of the AGOA reauthorization bill and, in the event of a finding of South African non-compliance, take swift action to ensure U.S. industry access to the South African market.

Thank you for your prompt attention and response to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator